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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/089,311	09/03/2002	Heather D. Cochrane	P19999S007	7368
27810	7590	11/07/2005	EXAMINER	
EXXONMOBIL RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING COMPANY P.O. BOX 900 1545 ROUTE 22 EAST ANNANDALE, NJ 08801-0900			TOOMER, CEPHIA D	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				1714

DATE MAILED: 11/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/089,311	COCHRANE ET AL.
	Examiner Cephia D. Toomer	Art Unit 1714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS,
WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 July 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-57 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-57 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This Office action is in response to the amendment filed July 18, 2005.

The rejection of the claims under 35 USC 112, first paragraph is withdrawn in view of the amendments to the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-11 and 13-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeTar (US 6,265,360).

3. DeTar teaches a fuel oil composition comprising 25-1000 ppm of a cold flow additive of a transesterified acrylate polymer (see abstract; col. 6, lines 55-67). The fuel oil may contain at least one of naphtha, atmospheric pipestill residuum and catalytic cracked residuum (see col. 3, line 62 through col. 3, lines 1-10). This teaching suggests the mixture of the fuel oils. De Tar teaches the limitations of the claims other than the differences that are discussed below.

In the first aspect, De Tar differs from the claims in that he does not specifically teach the proportions of the various pipestills. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to optimize the proportions of the various pipestills components of De Tar through routine

experimentation for the best results. As to optimization results, a patent will not be granted based upon the optimization of result effective variables when optimization is obtained through routine experimentation unless there is a showing of unexpected results which properly rebuts the *prima facie* case of obviousness. See *In re Bosch*, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980); *In re Woodruff*, 16 USPQ2d 1934 (Fed. Cir. 1990); *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233 (CCPA 1955).

In the second aspect, De Tar differs from the claims in that he does not teach the specific boiling point ranges of the fuels. However, no unobviousness is seen in this difference because De Tar teaches that the oils within the scope of his invention having boiling points up to 538 °C .(see col. 4, lines 33-50).

Claims 12 and 49-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over De Tar as applied to the claims above, further in view of EP 465042

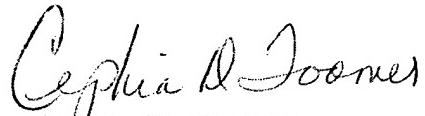
De Tar has been discussed above. DeTar fails to teach the addition of ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer. However, EP teaches that ethylene vinyl acetate is a conventional flow improver for fuel oils (see abstract; page 4, line 11; and page 28-34).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to employ ethylene vinyl acetate as the cold flow additive because EP teaches that ethylene vinyl acetate is used in wax containing distillate oils, such as those taught in the De Tar, to improve low temperature flow properties.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cephia D. Toomer whose telephone number is 571-272-1126. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasu Jagannathan can be reached on 571-272-1119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Cephia D. Toomer
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1714

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